(b) whether separate data of number of STs in Defence forces is maintained; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Recruitment in the Armed Forces is based on merit and is open to every citizen of the country including Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Class candidates without any discrimination on the basis of their caste, creed, religion or region. Hence no separate data about participation of Scheduled Tribes candidates is maintained by the Armed Forces.

Naxalites rise and menace in Karnataka

*111. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about rise in Naxalite activities in Karnataka in Chikmagalur and Mangalore districts, spread over Western Ghats area;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken to prevent naxalite activities;

(c) whether the living of Tribal people in those areas is being disturbed and dislocated; and

(d) what are the steps taken by the State Government to rehabilitate these Tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b) The CPML-PW and its front bodies are spreading their activities on the issue of eviction of tribals from the Kudremukh National Park in Malenadu region, comprising the districts of Chikmagulur, Shimoga, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan and Kodagu.

The Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of naxalism which includes (a) having a peace dialogue by

the affected States, wherever feasible, with naxal groups willing to adjure violence, (b) moderanisation and strengthening of the State Police forces, long term deployment of Para Military forces, intensified intelligence based well-coordinated anti-naxalite operations, (c) focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and (d) removal of sociocultural alienation of people, gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

The Government of Karnataka is alive to the problem of naxalites spreading their activities to some parts of the State and has initiated suitable counter measures.

(c) and (d) The issue of dislocation and rehabilitation of the tribals has been taken up by the State Government which is also in touch with the Ministry of Forest and Environment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Implementation of PMGSY

*112. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has not been implemented/extended so far; and

(b) the status of schemes under PMGSY in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is being implemented in all States.

(b) Proposals to the value of Rs. 97.89 crore have cleared for construction of 270 road works with a length of 493.65 km. in Kerala since the inception of PMGSY in 2000-01. So far Rs. 69.17 crore has been released to the State. As per reports received from the State upto October 2004, they have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 52.45 crore and completed construction of 275.41 km. of roads. While 270 road works have been cleared, only 144 have been completed up to October, 2004.